

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application.

II. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups of claims:

Group I Claims 1-40, drawn to a method for lanthionizing keratin fibers to achieve relaxation of said keratin fibers; and

Group II Claim 41, drawn to a multicompartment kit for re-waving fibers.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. However, to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I, Claims 1-40.

Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to M.P.E.P. § 803, which sets forth the criteria and guidelines for Examiners to follow in making proper requirements for restriction. The M.P.E.P instructs the Examiner as follows:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without **serious burden**, the Office **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

M.P.E.P. § 803 (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that, here, the Examiner has not demonstrated that examining Groups I and II will constitute a serious burden. The Examiner has not even provided class and subclass designations for the allegedly separate searches, let alone demonstrated that a search of both Groups I and II would be burdensome. Thus, the restriction requirement is unfounded and unsupported.

III. Conclusion

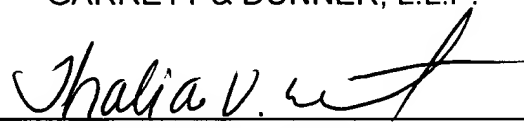
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe the restriction requirement to be in error and respectfully request that the requirement be withdrawn. Applicants now await an Office Action on the merits.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 3, 2004

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